

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 were pending and under consideration, and were rejected. In order to more clearly and distinctly recite that which they consider their inventions, the applicants have cancelled Claims 1-3, and replaced them with new claims 4-17. It is respectfully submitted that the new claims are adequately supported by the application as originally filed, for example, in Example 9 (pages 41-42 of the specification), which discloses that compound 8 was used to react with pyrrole-containing antigens, and that compound 8 (page 23 of the specification) contains a cleavable bond (i.e. a disulphide bond, which is broken by dithiothritol) for the isolation of the antigen. Compound 8, as well as page 22, lines 14-40, further provide support for the specific R⁴ group recited in Claim 13. Entry of the claim amendments and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully note that the claimed subject matter was not rejected over any prior art, and further respectfully submit that all claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been rendered moot.

Applicants note that the new claims retain the phrase "solid support" but respectfully submit that in the context of the new claims, this term is both definite and well-supported, because a person of ordinary skills in the art would clearly understand what materials are suitable as solid support for biotin/avidin binding. In fact, such solid support materials are widely available commercially (see e.g. page 41, line 25), and used for isolation, identification or purification of biological compounds.

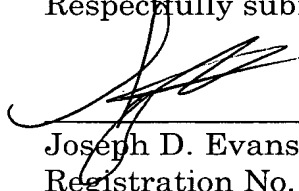
In co-pending application Ser. No. 10/672,843, applicants submitted copies of references (items BI, CA-CZ, and DA and DB) listed on the Form-1449 accompanying the IDS filed September 26, 2003. The Examiner is kindly requested to consider these references and acknowledge such consideration by returning to the undersigned an initialed copy of the Form-1449.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #100933.53278D2).

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Respectfully submitted,



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